

3,600 Liberians currently residing in the United States to be able to remain here under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

President Johnson Sirleaf has made it very clear that Liberia continues to need our support. As Liberia rebuilds after its civil war and re-establishes its civil society and government, we must continue to work with the Liberian people. Liberians that continue to reside in the United States, including the city of St. Paul, need our assistance as well. After the civil war Liberians were given the opportunity to register for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in this country. Today, the opportunity to continue to receive this status is in jeopardy. However, this legislation will protect those that need our help.

On October 1, 2007 the Temporary Protected Status (TSP) of all Liberians residing in the United States is set to expire. This will create a devastating effect on the opportunity for prosperity and hope of Liberian citizens. H.R. 3123 will alleviate this burden Liberians face by extending the designation of TPS.

Not only has United States provided assistance to the people of Liberia and its government, but the Liberians who currently reside in this country provide aid to the growing economy and families who remain in Liberia. The Liberians in the U.S. provide monetary support to families in Liberia but equally important is the ability to provide their skills, talent and education they have gained living in the U.S. to their countrymen that need help.

During her address to Congress in 2006 President Johnson Sirleaf expressed that Liberia needs to continue to receive these remittances and aid to help keep their economy stable. If the Liberian community in the United States is not granted TPS again and all are required to return to Liberia in a short period of time the economy and infrastructure of Liberia will not be able to sustain the influx.

Liberia and its people need our friendship and support and I applaud the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. Kennedy, for bringing this important bill to the floor. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272, AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. Speaker, there is much to be excited about in H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act, a bill that endeavors to maintain America's preeminence in math and science. It doubles funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. It establishes a number of initiatives to encourage diversity in energy choices and participation. It also establishes a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, ARPA-E, to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

However, the directive of ARPA-E explicitly includes provisions for the advancement of nuclear energy. The perils of nuclear energy are numerous. Indeed, in March 2002, workers at

the Davis Besse nuclear power plant discovered a deep cavity in the head of the nuclear reactor, leaving only a thin stainless steel lining. Experts have concluded that if the hole were not discovered, the reactor could have ruptured within the next year of operation. Furthermore, the lack of a long-term solution to dispose of nuclear waste necessitates that we dump tons of highly toxic waste on several generations to come. Finally, the economics of nuclear power requires billions of dollars in Federal subsidies, which would be far better spent on development of truly renewable energy technologies.

For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PURPLE HEART VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 49, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States and in support of S. 27, supporting the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day."

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in current use. It is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded during conflict with an enemy force or while held as prisoners of war.

The Purple Heart was originally awarded during the Revolutionary War by the order of then-General George Washington. In 1932 the practice of awarding this prestigious medal was reinstated to honor the 200th birthday of George Washington.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only veteran's organization comprised strictly of combat veterans. It was created for the protection and mutual interest of those who have received the Purple Heart. Since the reintroduction of this high honor, over 1.5 million soldiers have been awarded the Purple Heart; 550,000 of these brave individuals are living today.

Madam Speaker, the recipients of the Purple Heart have made an invaluable contribution to our country that will not be forgotten. They put their lives on the line and made great sacrifices while in service to our country and deserve our deepest respect. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 49 and S. 27, and I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their service to our country.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor I rise in strong support of

H. Res. 121. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of Japan should formally apologize for and acknowledge the role that some in the Japanese Government played in forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.

To date, the Government of Japan has failed to do this. This is a human rights issue that the gentleman from California, Mr. HONDA, has championed for years. Along with other Members of this body I am truly proud to stand with him today in support of this resolution.

Throughout the world's history, including World War II, cultures and societies have abused women, raped and enslaved them, and subjected them to forced sexual acts. The United States is not without its past atrocities and abuses, including the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. However, if we recognize and acknowledge our mistakes as human beings we can learn from the past and reduce the occurrence of horrible acts. H. Res. 121 looks to provide recognition of past human rights abuses against the "comfort women" so Japan can move forward knowing it will never commit these acts again.

MR. TOMMY MAKEM

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He immigrated to the United States in 1955 seeking work as an actor and settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish decent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career has awarded him an honorary doctorate from the University of New Hampshire, gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards and a listing as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine five years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and million of others around the world.